

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW NIACT IMMEDIATE

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TAGS: OEXC, UR

SUBJECT: CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS: JOFFREY BALLET

REF: MOSCOW 17059

USMISSION GENEVA PASS GUY CORIDEN CSCE DELEGATION

1. MAJOR CHANGES PROPOSED BY GOSKONTSERT FIVE DAYS PRYOR
DEPARTURE JOFFREY BALLET FOR SOVIET UNION IMPOSSIBLE TO
REALIZE FOR FOLLOWING REASONS:

A. SUGGESTED CHANGES IN VILNIUS MEAN DROPPING SUBSTANTIAL
PART OF PROGRAM (DECEMBER 5 EVENING PROGRAM OF THREE NUM-
BERS WOULD BE TOTALLY ELIMINATED AND ONE NUMBER FROM THIRD
DAY) BECAUSE REQUIRED STAGE PROPERTIES WOULD BE ENROUTE
MOSCOW. IF JOFFREY BALLET IS TO SHOW ITS STRENGTH AND
VARIETY IN ANY CITY IT CANNOT DO SO WITH A TRUNCATED PROGRAM
IN ONE OR TWO NIGHT STANDS. THIS FACT EMPHASIZED TO DEPT
REPEATEDLY BY CRAWFORD DURING NEGOTIATIONS WHICH REDUCED
VILNIUS PERFORMANCES FROM 7 TO 5 TO 4. THEY CAN BE RE-

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DUCED NO FURTHER.

B. IT HAS BEEN MADE CLEAR FROM THE BEGINNING THAT JOFFREY WILL NOT PERFORM WITHOUT HIS ELECTRICS WHICH ARE CONSIDERED INTEGRAL AND ESSENTIAL PART OF ALL COMPANY PERFORMANCES.

SHIPPING FROM RIGA, THEREFORE, OUT OF QUESTION. SHIPMENT FROM VILNIUS TO ARRIVE MOSCOW BY NOON DAY OF PREMIERE IMPOSSIBLE VIEW NEED 24 HOURS SET UP. CRITICAL DECISIONS ON ITINERARY MUST BE MADE NOW AND CANNOT BE DEFERRED TO ADVANCE VISIT BY CRAWFORD TO VILNIUS TO INSPECT PERFORMANCE SITE. DUE BUSINESS REASONS HE CANNOT RPT CANNOT ARRIVE LENINGRAD TWO DAYS AHEAD OF GROUP.

2. LAST WEEK DEPT FINALLY PERSUADED JOFFREY/CRAWFORD TO AGREE TO DECEMBER 9 OPENING MOSCOW ON WHICH GOSK HAD INSISTED. FOR GOSK NOW TO STATE THEY CANNOT GUARANTEE ARRIVAL PROPERTIES MOSCOW FOR PERMIERE THIS DATE IS SIMPLY UNTENABLE POSITION. EMB IS ACCORDINGLY INSTRUCTED TO INFORM GOSKONTSERT THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR DEPT TO MAKE CHANGES PROPOSED THIS LATE DATE. TO SALVAGE TOUR WHICH GOSK HAS NOW JEOPARDIZED, GOSKONTSERT IN DEPT VIEW HAS TWO ALTERNATIVES: (1) TO SHIP ALL PROPERTIES INCLUDING ELECTRICS BY SURFACE FROM VILNIUS EARLY MORNING DECEMBER 7 TO ARRIVE MOSCOW DECEMBER 9 FOR PERMIERE ON DECEMBER 10 OR (2) TO SHIP ALL PROPERTIES REQUIRED FOR FIRST TWO NIGHTS MOSCOW BY AIR FROM VILNIUS DECEMBER 7 TO ARRIVE SAME DAY FOR PREMIERE DECEMBER 9. (ELECTRICS 20,000 POUNDS; SCENERY, COSTUMES, DROPS 20,000 POUNDS, BALANCE TO FOLLOW BY SURFACE). CRAWFORD CONCURS. IN THIS LAST ALTERNATIVE EMB SHOULD REMIND GOSKONTSERT THAT DEPT PAID FOR COUNTRY MUSIC USA FOR MOSCOW-YEREVAN LEG OF TOUR (DOLS 20,000) THUS SAVING GOSKONTSERT INTERNAL TRANSPORT COSTS NORMALLY BORNE BY SOVIETS.

CONCURRENTLY EMB IS REQUESTED MEET WITH OFFICIALS MINCULT AND MFA (AT DCM LEVEL) TO PROTEST UNREASONABLE DEMANDS OF GOSKONTSERT, SEEKING THEIR ASSISTANCE SAVE TOUR ON WHICH ALL OF US HAVE ALREADY SPENT SO MUCH TIME, EFFORT AND MONEY. EMB SHOULD ALSO STRESS NEED TO AVOID DISRUPTION OF TOUR AND ATTENDANT PUBLICITY DUE TO LAST MINUTE IMPASSE BETWEEN TWO GOVERNMENTS. FYI ONLY. EMB LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SHOULD ALSO KEEP IN MIND THAT GOSK'S DEMONSTRATED INABILITY TO LOGISTICALLY DEVELOP ARRANGEMENTS MOVE PROPERTIES VILNIUS-MOSCOW WEAKENS, IF NOT DESTROYS THEIR ARGUMENT FOR DECEMBER 9 OPENING. END FYI.

3. DELAYING DEPARTURE TWO CONDUCTORS UNTIL RESOLUTION LATEST IMPASSE. REQUEST IMMEDIATE REPLY WITHIN 24 HOURS. KISSINGER

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